Lecture Series

Jewish Public Library
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הספריה היהודית העמומית
ייִדישע פאלקס ביבליאטעק

Legacy for Learning presents a three-part lecture series with **Prof. Ira Robinson**

"A Kabbalist in Montreal: The Life and Times of Rabbi Yudel Rosenberg"

Rabbi Yudel Rosenberg (1859-1935) was a fascinating person in many respects. His telling of the story of the Golem of Prague is the version that became renowned in Jewish and European literature. His efforts to spread the study of Kabbalah marked the beginning of a trend that culminated in the contemporary popularity of Jewish mysticism, including Madonna and the Kabbalah Centre movement. Yet most people have never heard of Yudel Rosenberg and his influential writings. This is largely because, as an orthodox Hasidic rabbi he did not present himself, nor was he usually thought of as a creative writer and a visionary scholar.

This series of three lectures will tell Rabbi Rosenberg's story against the background of Eastern European Jewry and its intellectual battles between Hasidism and the forces of Jewish modernity, the rise of Hebrew and Yiddish literature, the development of the Canadian Jewish community, and the struggles of Orthodox Judaism and its leadership to survive and remain relevant in modern times.

Ira Robinson is a Professor of Judaic studies in the Department of Religion at Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec. Robinson has published *Moses Cordovero's Introduction to Kabbala: An Annotated Translation of His Or Ne'erav* (1994). His two most recent books are *Rabbis and Their Community: Studies in the Eastern European Orthodox Rabbinate in Montreal, 1896-1930* (2007), which won a J.I. Segal Prize in 2008, and *Translating a Tradition: Studies in American Jewish History* (2008). He is president of the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies, a member of the Board of Federation CJA of Montreal, and is past president of the Jewish Public Library of Montreal.

This three week non-credit course is sponsored by the Helen Bassel Endowment.

Three Tuesdays
March 17,
March 24,
March 31, 2009
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Jewish Public Library
5151, Côte -Ste-Catherine Road
$25 members/students*
$40 non-members
Registration required
at (514) 345-2627 ext. 3017

* Tickets at the member rate must be purchased in advance. Students pay member rate at all times. Call for details. Doors open 30 minutes prior to the event. Free parking at the YM-YWHA.